



DATE: December 22, 2006

TO: Andrew T. Souza

FROM: Rhonda Jorn, Public Affairs Officer

FOR: Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The *Citywide Weekly Report* highlights various activities throughout the City for the week. Consistent with our mission to ensure equal access to opportunity, education, and quality of life for every man, woman and child regardless of their race, religion, age or socio-economic status, this report will work to organize our weekly achievements so that we can measure and maximize our management and performance toward reaching our goals. It is our intent that this report will help to improve communications about the programs and services provided to both the City Council and the community.

Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Department with any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Public Utilities

Community Sanitation's Hybrid Rear Loader is First of Its Kind

A new hybrid 13 yd rear loader is being designed for the Community Sanitation's use. The new chassis arrived December 14. Heading up the project is Joseph Oldham at Fleet Management. This vehicle is the first of its kind in the nation and quite possibly the first of its exact kind in the world. The rear loader will be totally silent with an electric motor. It will have a LNG motor for voltage purposes only. The vehicle will need to be plugged in every evening for charging overnight. The vehicle will be evaluated as it is put into use.

UPCOMING EVENTS and PROJECTS

Public Works

- Public Works staff prepared a workshop for City Council on December 12 with the Stakeholders for the proposed Street Impact Fees. Staff continues to work with the Stakeholders to come to resolution of how to equitably fund roadway

improvements to implement the 2025 General Plan Transportation Circulation Plan and yet still promote development growth. Public Works staff met with the stakeholders on December 14, 2006 to discuss comments from Council members. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 21, 2006 from 2-4 pm.

WEEKLY NEWS

KEY RESULT AREA: PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

- From December 15 through December 21 at 1500 hours, fire crews responded to 515 incidents.

KEY RESULT AREA: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Personnel

Employee Benefits Webpage

- The new and improved Employee Benefits page on the City of Fresno website went live this week. The site has been updated to include more detailed information regarding the benefits provided to City employees. The page now has links to assist employees with finding medical and dental providers, a link to the Fresno City Employees Health and Welfare Trust Plan Booklet, and other valuable health related information.

Supervisor Academy

- Thursday, December 14th marked the final session of the fifth Supervisor Academy. Ninety-four Supervisors representing 14 City departments have now attended this training. These 48-hour intensive academies, which focus on leadership development, help first-line and mid-level supervisors develop crucial supervisory skills.

KEY RESULT AREA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development

New Film Commissioner For Fresno

- Ray Arthur, currently the Regional Film Commission Director and the first Executive Director of the newly formed Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, will begin his duties as Film Commissioner for the City of Fresno on January 16, 2007. As Film Commissioner, Arthur will promote filming opportunities specific to the City of Fresno including the unique scenery, diversity of locations and cultures as well as the lower cost of doing business locally. The economic benefits of the Film Commission will be realized as jobs are created when local crews and talent are hired and goods and services are rented or purchased during their productions.

KEY RESULT AREA: CUSTOMER SERVICE

FAX/Transportation

FAX's 3rd Successful Holly Jolly Trolley Event

- To kick-off this year's popular event, a News Conference was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., outside of the Manchester Transit Center. Director of Transportation, Ken Hamm, warmly welcomed the community to the event and said "We are delighted to offer free rides down Christmas Tree Lane on our Holly Jolly Trolleys. It is wonderful knowing that we are able to provide equal access to the great valley tradition of Christmas Tree Lane in Fresno." Ridership for the three-day event (December 5-7, 2006) was 912 passengers. In addition, refreshments were provided by FAX which consisted of cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, and candy canes.

Parks and Recreation

- The PRCS After-School Recreation Program is busy gearing up for the potential Prop 49 windfall to nearly double the program in 2007. ASR Supervisors are developing a matrix of activities.
- The PRCS Recreation Division coordinated multiple holiday parties at various Neighborhood Centers throughout Fresno for local youth this week. Several locations have received toys to distribute to the kids.
- The PRCS Senior Program hosted its monthly dance this past Saturday and 185 Seniors danced to the music of the Wild Cats Band.
- As of 12/19/2006, 689 job seekers have been hired from the 2nd Mayor's Job Fair last October. There are still 24 employers who have not responded to our request for follow-up reports.

Airports

New Downtown Restaurant

- Fresno Chandler Executive Airport welcomed downtown Fresno's newest dining establishment, Mak's Landing. Open for breakfast and lunch the hours are 6:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Saturday (closed Sundays).

Public Works

- Public Works Street Maintenance Concrete Section: Crews completed No Neighborhood Left Behind (NNLB) Area #5 ahead of schedule and are preparing to start their next NNLB project. Tree Damaged Concrete Crews completed their scheduled project in District 1 on time and have begun the District 3 portion of this annual project.
- Public Works Street Maintenance Street Repair: Crews completed intersection asphalt repairs at Shaw Avenue and Millbrook Avenue. This work addressed an area that has received multiple complaints over the years.

- Public Works Street Maintenance Paint and Street Sign Section participated in a Regional Christmas Toy Drive, delivering close to 200 toys to the Fresno Rescue Mission. The toys were delivered to the Fresno Rescue Mission for the men in the Academy Recovery Program for their kids to have toys at Christmas. Thanks to the Street Maintenance Paint and Sign Shop for being such great stewards of our community!
- Public Works Construction Management recently conducted preconstruction meetings for four new Capital Improvement Projects which will begin construction in January 2007; 1. Hughes Avenue Widening from Nielsen Avenue to 650 feet south of Nielsen Avenue; 2. Street Trees – Tulare and Fresno Street; 3. Huntington Sewer Installation, Villa to Lind Avenue; 4. Construction of RDA Parking Lot at the Southwest Corner of "O" Street and Santa Clara Avenue.
- Three additional parking controllers have joined the enforcement team: Barry Quinn, Tammy Murphy, and Andrew Luna. With a total of seven new hires so far for FY07, Parking now has enough staff to allow coverage in each of the seven Council Districts from 6am-10pm during weekdays AND weekends. The increased staff allows for quicker inspections of the frequently requested "Abandoned Vehicle" and 72 hour violations, as well as Vehicle Sale activity reports (called "pop-up" lots).
- Parking has stepped up enforcement in high profile shopping areas to ensure Handicap spaces are not abused by holiday shoppers without valid Disabled Person placards. Parking is also watching for those using the Fire Lanes as loading zones or for temporary parking. Public safety and ADA compliance is a primary concern of the Division and Controllers will be issuing citations as a deterrent in these situations.
- Parking Services provided traffic control and parking escorts in the area surrounding City Hall for the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on December 8th. Parking also provided secure storage at their H street building and a staging area for several floats featured during the Holiday parade in the weeks leading up to the event.
- The Parking Services Vehicle Abatement Team conducted "sweeps" for inoperable and abandoned vehicles in the following areas this week: District 3: Whitesbridge to Jensen, Lead to Thorne, Thorne to 99, Church to North Avenue; District 4: Olive to Clinton, Cedar to Chestnut, Clovis to Fowler, Clinton to Dakota, Melody Park. An additional sweep is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th in problematic areas of District 1. Shawn Taylor and Manuel Frutos deserve commendation for their efforts to keep these neighborhood streets free of hazards and "junky" vehicles that deter beautification efforts.

Median Island crews performed the following work this week:

- Cleaning: 2.5 million sq. ft.
Spraying 2.9 Million sq. ft
Irrigation repairs included 160 hours of work.
- Traffic Engineering and Street Maintenance Signal Shop staff have beat the schedule and exceeded the quantity of tested 2070 controller installations

expected at this time for the Phase 3 ITS program. They will continue to test and install the remaining controllers.

- Public Works Traffic Engineering assisted the Planning and Development Department with the final summary Southeast Area Growth Area listening session at Sunnyside High School. The cafeteria was full with standing room only, which is a great turnout from City residents, County residents, property owners, and developers.